



# St. Gerard

March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday  
of Lent

Roman Catholic Parish

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:  
By pre-registration only until further notice

## CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead.  
We continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our parishioners and employees safe & healthy.  
You may phone/email the office Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 [louisYorkton@gmail.com](mailto:louisYorkton@gmail.com)

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer  
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

## MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (22 <sup>nd</sup> )	NO MASS
Tues. (23 <sup>rd</sup> )	6:00pm <i>Holy Hour Devotion</i> 7:00pm +Marion Novakowski
Wed. (24 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>12:05pm</b> +Ferdinand Thiele
Thurs. (25 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b> 9:30am +Joan Kormos 7:00pm Anne Novakovski
Fri. (26 <sup>th</sup> )	9:30am Special Intentions 7:00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat. (27 <sup>th</sup> )	9:30am +Donna Olszewski
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	5:00pm David & Mary Ryhorski 7:00pm Mass for the People
Sun. (28 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b> 9:00am +Edward Piontek 11:00am +Rose Slogotski

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

### WELCOME BACK!

Commencing Friday, March 19 we are able to welcome more than 30 people in the church!

**Please follow these important notes:**

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca) Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon. Please note that confirmation of your request may be delayed.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory are to be worn prior to entering the building. **Please arrive early.**
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
  - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
  - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of the province or Canada within the last 14 days
  - ❖ Those who are waiting for COVID-19 test results



Stay  
Connected  
Online!

[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Lord, your love is written on my heart. May your love inspire and empower me to love people from all walks of life.

- From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter*,  
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## A Note from Your Pastor...

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

First of all, I would like to summarize today's readings. In the first reading, through the words of the prophet Jeremiah, God introduces a new covenant with His people. With the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of people to Babylon, the institutions of the old covenants were gone. There would be a strong connection between God and his people, as the covenant would be in the hearts of people. For us, we understand that this was brought about through the death of Jesus, for He himself says, "*This cup is the new covenant in my blood*" (1Cor 11.25).

In the Gospel Jesus makes it clearer for us to understand by using the example of a grain of wheat dying in order to yield a harvest, thereby suggesting that his own death will bear much fruit.

In the second reading, we learn that in His death, Jesus will be glorified and this will bring life to those who follow him, as we heard in the Gospel last weekend: "*For God so loves the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life*". Indeed, He became the source of eternal life for all who believe in Him.

I invite you to think about this: death is a part of life. We are born to die, to die so that we may live more fully. We are born to die - a little each day - to selfishness and to sin. Every time we pass from one stage of life to another, something in us dies and something new is born. We taste death in moments of loneliness, rejection, sorrow, disappointment, and failure. We are dying before our time when we live in bitterness, in hatred, and in isolation. I would say that each day we may be creating our own death by the way we live.

When Jesus says "anyone who loves his life, loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it", He is not telling us to hate ourselves or our lives. We have to learn to love ourselves. God wants us to be merciful with ourselves, and others. Nobody can love us if we do not love ourselves. Unless we love ourselves we will not be able to love anyone else. Of course we have to distinguish between true love of self and selfishness.

Jesus gave us an example. He gave his life in the service of his heavenly Father and of us. But he didn't find it easy. Through the Gospels we know that when the actual moment of death arrived, he was filled with fear.

Jesus' life wasn't taken from him. He offered it. He offered it out of love of God and of us. To love is to accept that one might die another kind of death, before one dies one's own. The way of love is the way of the cross, and the way of the cross leads us to the triumph of the resurrection.

Those who die to self will find the moment of actual death easy. The hour of death will become the hour of glory. It is by dying that we are born to eternal life.

I invite all of you to think about this and reflect on it during this week.

Lent is almost finished. We continue to prepare ourselves for the celebrations to come, the Passion of the Lord, the death and the resurrection of the Lord. Let us go to Jerusalem with the Lord, to be with Him in sharing his passion and death and then at the end we will celebrate new life with Him.

Spring is coming. Have a wonderful week with abundance of God's blessings, joy and love.

Fr. Louis Nguyen

## The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday),
  - Saturdays at 9:00 am
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449



## The Annunciation of the Lord

### Thursday, March 25

Mass will be celebrated at:  
9:30 am      7:00 pm

Pre-registration is not required.

This Thursday, March 25, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, when Mary said yes to God and became the Mother of our Savior.

The angel of the Lord came to Mary to initiate the dialogue that would change the course of history: “The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (Luke 1:35). Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

The dialogue between the messenger and the Virgin was not an imposition, but a proposal that Mary, “blessed among women,” accepted with complete freedom.

Pope Saint John Paul II says that “by her conduct, Mary reminds each of us of our serious responsibility to accept God’s plan for our lives.” This season of Lent presents us with a wonderful opportunity to say yes to the Lord by living the Lenten practices of fasting, praying, and almsgiving.

Mary was likely only 15 years old when her answer brought salvation to all humanity. In our classrooms and homes, we have children and young people who are called to be messengers of hope. Let’s pray to the Lord that we may have the grace to instill in them a love for God that is so big that one day, they will say yes to his call throughout their lives.

**Parkland Right to Life**  
Annual General Meeting

Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> - 7:30 pm

Yorkton Alliance Church



## SACRAMENTS of INITIATION PREPARATION

### BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

**The next Baptism Preparation Session is Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm.**

Please contact the Parish Office to register: 306.782.2449 or [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)


The **Stations of the Cross** devotion is prayed Friday at 7pm during Lent.

Mar. 26 Altar Servers




### Come and Spend an Hour with the Lord!

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)



### News from the CWL



C.W.L. Membership fees for 2021 are now due. The fee is \$30.00. If you haven’t submitted your membership fee, please do so as soon as possible.



### News from the Knights of Columbus



March 25 Articles for “The Word” due

If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith Hayward @ 306.783.0963. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)

## YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH PRAYER

“Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.”

- Pope Francis



# Bringing Home the Word

## The Meaning of the Gardens of Scripture

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Focus on the painting, Sebastiano Conca's *Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane*, and you will be drawn across the space between the gaze of Jesus and the chalice the angel offers. Sebastiano understands the essence of the agony in the Garden—the loneliness of Jesus before the bitter cup the Father extends to him via the hands of an angel.

Jesus' attitude in receiving this passion is evident in his open arms. Like the posture he will assume when nailed to the cross, he shows his humble acceptance and abandonment.

Gardens don't appear often in Scripture, but they are important. There is the Garden of Eden, the place of God's creative love and man's original sin. There is the garden in the Song of Songs—a garden of passion, possession, and life-giving union. Where is Jesus' tomb, and where does Mary Magdalene, the transformed lover, find Jesus on Easter morning? In the Scriptures, gardens are a place of new life, sin, and redemption. It's where lovers go; where love is declared and tested.

This is important in understanding the drama of our Lord's agony in the Garden. It is the drama inside of love. It is the drama of acceptance and abandonment, trust and generosity, life and death.

Jesus knows this and goes into the Garden to do what Adam failed to do in the first Garden. He goes to pay the price of love. He engenders new life by giving his own. He looks at the chalice, the price of our salvation, and with a heart full of generous, uncomplicated love, accepts the Father's invitation. "Not my will but yours be done."

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### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

It is the law of nature, that creation does not live for itself, but for other creatures. *Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. **Living for others is a rule of nature.** We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is... Life is good when you are happy; **but much better when others are happy because of you.***  
Pope Francis, May 2017

- Submitted by the Stewardship Committee

**For the Love of Creation Advocacy** for global justice is something that the members of Development and Peace see as integral to their faith commitment. As humanity faces an



unprecedented ecological crisis in the decade ahead, advocacy that cares for our common home is vital. Join deputy director of public engagement at Development and Peace Luke Stocking and senior policy analyst at Citizens for Public Justice Karri Munn-Venn for a conversation with our movement on the 4 policy pillars of For the Love of Creation on **March 27, 2021 at 12:30 p.m.** Long time Development and Peace member Kim Piché, involved in climate justice and the zero-waste movement, will also participate. You will leave ready to put your faith in action by urging the federal government to place these 4 pillars at the heart of their own policy decisions in the years ahead. The session will last one hour and will be recorded. **Sign up here:**

[https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN - zUHvyxxQN2Xe7gahg3OSA](https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN-zUHvyxxQN2Xe7gahg3OSA)

**•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•  
•PEROGIES•CABBAGE ROLLS•**

### PARISH FUNDRAISER

**Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**2pm – 5pm**

**(while supplies last!!!)**

Potato & onion perogies \$35 (10 dozen)  
Potato & cheddar perogies \$40 (10 dozen)  
Cabbage rolls \$25 (5 dozen)  
*(Rice with dill)*

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, perogies and cabbage rolls will be available drive-through only (no walk-ups). Enter at parking lot & turn into the driveway in front of the church. Please remain in your vehicle and someone will take your order. Please wear a mask!**

### \*\*\*PEROGY BEE\*\*\*

Mon. (22<sup>nd</sup>): 9:00 am- Peeling  
Tues. (23<sup>rd</sup>): 9:00 am- Pinching  
Wed. (24<sup>th</sup>): 9:00 am- Packaging

\*\*\*MASKS REQUIRED\*\*GLOVES PREFERRED\*\*\*

**(Maximum 30 participants each day).**

## YOUTH REFLECTION

### "The Grain of Wheat"

#### **This Week...**

Being people of God means being people who have faith in life after death. Jesus taught us this with his story of the grain of wheat that dies and then produces new life in its fruit. He also shows us life after death by rising from the dead.

#### **For Your Reflection**

Part of growing older is learning how to accept the experiences of loss in our lives, and to have hope in the experiences of growth and new life to come. Experiences of loss could be felt when moving to a new town, after the breakup of a close relationship, or after the death of a friend or relative. Experiences of growth and new life could include meeting new friends in a new town, having a different but honest relationship with someone you care about, or feeling peacefulness in your heart with the memory of someone who has died.

- What are some experiences of loss in your life that have been followed by experiences of growth or new life?

Jesus said the ones who serve would follow him and the ones who would lose their lives would live forever.

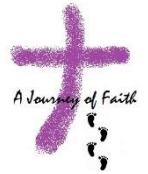
- What do you think these words of Jesus are all about?
- What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- What do you think it means to lose life in order to live forever?



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)** is an incredible journey of discovery, the discovery of God's love in Jesus. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the friendship and saving grace of Jesus Christ, we invite you to join us in the RCIA journey. It is a warm, welcoming experience that introduces the Christian faith in our Roman Catholic tradition. We explore topics such as Holy Scripture, the Sacraments, Church history and the core beliefs of the Church. Anyone who has taken this "leap of faith" has found it to be a life-altering experience.

The RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized. There are several rites and stages that are part of the process to prepare adults for Baptism and to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

**Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.** If you have been baptized in another Christian tradition, the Catholic Church respects that baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of our rebirth in Christ and our immersion into His saving death and Resurrection. It can never be repeated. Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church happens after a period of preparation through catechesis, prayer and worship, and an introduction to Catholic life, values, and mission.



**Adults who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation** can prepare for reception of this sacrament through a period of catechesis and prayer.

If you are interested in this journey of faith, please contact Fr. Louis at 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323.

*And to all our friends in St. Gerard's parish, we remind you that we all have a responsibility to share our faith and bring others to Christ. If you know of a family member, friend, co-worker or fellow student who is searching for a deeper meaning in their life, let them know about RCIA.*

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## LOST SOMETHING?



**Mitts, toques, etc.** – check the literature display drawer marked "Lost and Found" in the Welcome Area.

**Books, religious articles, jewellery, etc.** – contact the Parish Office.

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## OFFERING A MASS

The offering of a Mass in the name of a deceased family member or friend is one of the greatest ways to keep our beloved dead in our living memory. At each celebration of the Mass, the great prayer of sacrifice is made complete as Jesus' life, death and resurrection is offered to God the Father. When we offer a Mass for a particular person, we ask that in a special way the individual be remembered by the priest who offers up the great sacrifice on behalf of the whole community of faith. In a very real and active way, the life, death and resurrection of the person remembered becomes present and is offered up with Jesus. Each time we offer up a Mass for someone, living or dead, we celebrate the greatest gift of our faith – the gift of Everlasting Life in Christ.

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**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is available daily at the EADM Centre Chapel at 484 Hamilton St. Regina. Hours: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on Monday through Thursday. Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Please help us keep Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament available in Regina on a daily basis.

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## The Healing and Growth Centre St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission

**St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission** – Searching for God’s purpose in your life? Want to live life more fully, and take your faith to the next level? Then, come to St. Therese! At St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, adults of all ages can explore their faith, discern their vocation in life, foster their prayer life and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Visit on line at [www.sttherese.ca](http://www.sttherese.ca)

### **Rachel's Vineyard: a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortion.**

Are you hurting because of an abortion? **Rachel's Vineyard** is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information, please contact Elaine at 1.306.480.8911 or email [r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net](mailto:r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net)

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY** offers distance education courses for adults seeking faith formation for personal and professional development: ***Diploma in Ministry; Certificate in Lay Ministry; Come Let Us Worship: A course in liturgical foundations; Certificate in Spirituality; and Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies.***

For an information package please contact Continuing & Distance Education, St. Francis Xavier University, toll free 1-877-867-5562, [diplomainministry@stfx.ca](mailto:diplomainministry@stfx.ca)